



2014-2015 Guide to American and English Camps

Park founded to celebrate peace and nature

One hundred and fifty-one years ago, an American farmer named Lyman Cutlar shot and killed a Hudson's Bay Company pig rooting in his San Juan Island potato patch. In so doing, he nearly started a war between the United States and Great Britain. Fortunately, men of vision and moral authority on both sides realized the folly of bloodshed over a 54-square-mile island far from the seats of power—thus the creation of San Juan Island National Historical Park.

To learn more about the Pig War, please turn to page 2



English Camp's commissary, blockhouse and formal garden sit at the edge of the embankment on Garrison Bay.

Public transportation to English and American camps

San Juan Transit & Tours: 378-8887. Regularly scheduled routes north to English Camp and south to American Camps during the summer season. Walk on the ferry and enjoy some of the most spectacular hiking trails in the region.

Bob's Taxi & Tours: 378-6777 or (877) 4-TAXIBOB. Service to all points on request.

San Juan Taxi: 378-3550 or 378-TAXI. Bike and kayak racks on all vehicles.

Island Bicycles: 378-4941. Bicycles. Open daily.

Susie's Mopeds: 378-5244 or (800) 532-0087. Mopeds and automobiles.

Friday Harbor Marine: 378-6202. Electric boats, runabouts, kayaks, fishing kayaks, dive shop, sailing school and high-speed water taxis.

M&W Rental Cars: 378-2794 or (800) 323-6037. Automobile and van rentals and automobile sales.

Inside this issue

Hiking

American and English camps offer numerous hiking trails. Browse our maps and trail guide to find one that suits you. (Pages 4 & 5)

Programs

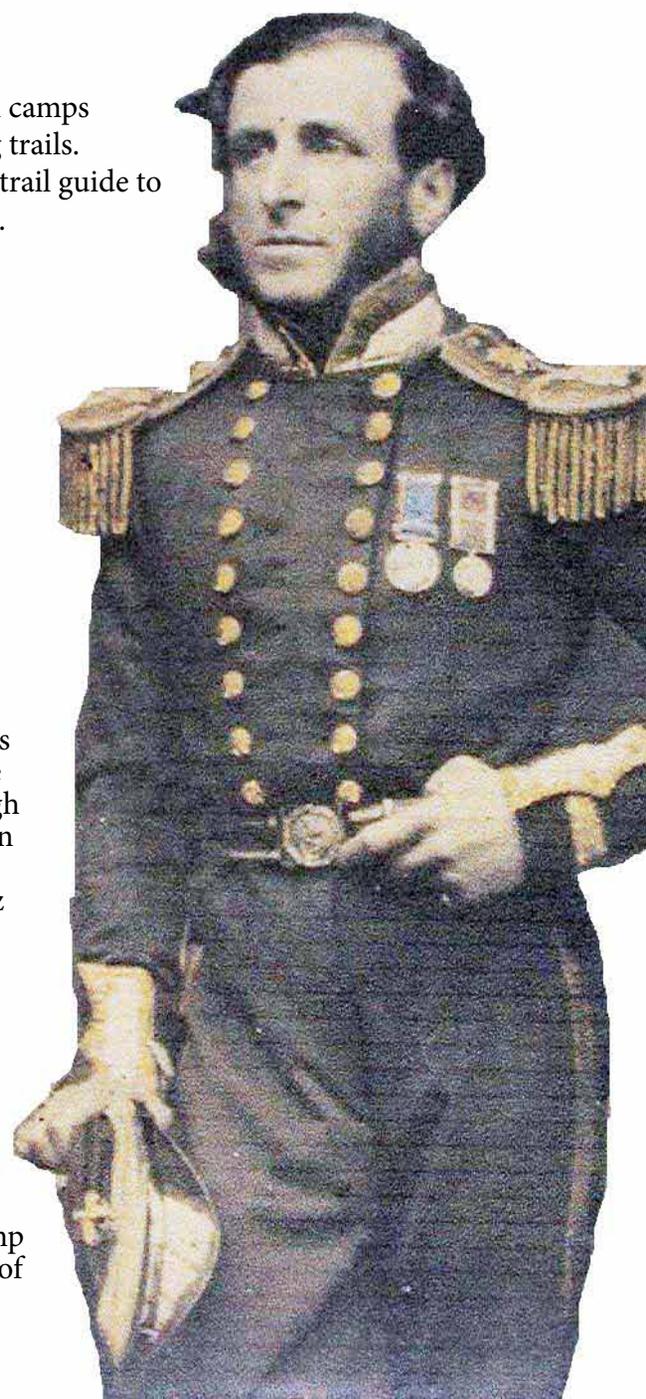
From living history to nature to evenings of song and dance, it's all here. Check our program guide.

Climate Change

Learn more about a dynamic speaker series about Climate Change scheduled June through September in venues in Friday Harbor, as well as on Orcas and Lopez Islands. (Page 7)

Island Marble

Find out about the park's continuing efforts at American Camp to ensure the survival of the rare island marble butterfly. (Page 8)





National Park Service
U.S. Department
of the Interior

Basic information

The Pig War of 1859: A close call

San Juan Island National Historical Park

Superintendent
Lee Taylor

Contact Information

Superintendent
San Juan Island NHP
P.O. Box 429
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

e-mail
SAJH_Administration@nps.gov

Administration
(360) 378-2240, ext. 2221
FAX: (360) 378-2615

Visitor Services
(360) 378-2240, ext. 2233

Web site
www.nps.gov/sajh

The park is administered by
the National Park Service, U.S.
Department of the Interior.

Cover:
Capt. Geoffrey Phipps Hornby
was commander of HMS *Tribune*,
a 31-gun steam frigate assigned
to the Royal Navy's Pacific
Station. Hornby's cool demeanor
in dealing with the U.S. Army's
Capt. George E. Pickett was
largely responsible for heading
off war over San Juan Island.
He would later be knighted and
become an Admiral of the Fleet,
thus following in the footsteps
of his father, Adm. Phipps
Hornby, a former Pacific Station
commander.

This guide is published in
cooperation with *The Journal
of the San Juan Islands*. The
National Park Service cannot
guarantee the relevance, time-
liness or accuracy of the mate-
rials provided by the advertis-
ers or other organizations, nor
does the NPS endorse other
organizations or their views,
products or services.

On July 27, 1859, George E. Pickett's Company D, 9th Infantry, arrived on San Juan Island with a mission to protect United States citizens from the British government on Vancouver Island. The reason? An American settler named Lyman Cutlar had shot a pig belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company. Everyone overreacted, particularly U.S. Department of Oregon commander Brig. Gen. William S. Harney, who had issued Pickett his orders.

Ownership of the entire San Juan Island group had been in limbo since the signing of the Oregon Treaty in 1846. The treaty gave the United States lands south of the 49th parallel, extending the boundary to the "middle of the channel, which separates the continent from Vancouver Island."

There are actually two channels—Haro Strait nearest Vancouver Island and Rosario Strait nearer the mainland. The San Juan Islands lie between the two. Britain insisted on the Rosario Strait; the U.S., Haro Strait. Thus, both sides claimed the archipelago.

To solidify the British claim, the Hudson's Bay Company in 1853 established Belle Vue Sheep Farm on the southern end of the island. The Americans, meanwhile, believed the San Juans belonged to them. By 1859 about 18 Americans,

including Cutlar, had settled on San Juan Island in anticipation of official American possession. Neither group acknowledged the jurisdiction or taxing authority of the other.

Several incidents ensued over the next several years, culminating in Cutlar's pig murder in June 1859. British authorities threat-



ened Cutlar with arrest if he did not pay for the pig. This is what compelled Harney to dispatch Pickett to San Juan Island.

British Columbia Gov. James Douglas responded by sending three warships under Royal Navy Capt. Geoffrey Phipps Hornby to dislodge Pickett. Hornby's initial orders were to remove Pickett by force if he refused to leave peaceably. But soon after

Hornby arrived in Griffin Bay, Douglas, at the urging of the senior Royal Navy officer in the area, dispatched a messenger with a new order proposing a joint military occupation of the island.

Pickett refused and asked Harney for reinforcements. Soon nearly 500 U.S. troops—now under command of Lt. Col. Silas Casey—occupied the island bolstered by eight naval guns. After observing the guns being emplaced, Hornby sought permission to assault the heights and spike the guns. This was rejected by Pacific Station commander Rear Adm. R. Lambert Baynes.

A stalemate ensued for more than three months until U.S. Army commander Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott was dispatched from the East Coast to mediate the crisis. Scott and Douglas negotiated a standdown while the two governments arranged a joint military occupation of the island.

The Americans remained at Cattle Point, and the Royal Marines established a camp 13 miles north in March 1860.

The joint occupation ended 12 years later when Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany, acting as arbitrator, selected a three-man commission who settled the dispute by awarding the San Juan Islands to the United States. Thus ended the so-called Pig War—the pig the only casualty.

Fast facts about park hours and laws

Both park units are day-use only. Hours are:

English Camp: Dawn to 11 p.m..
Royal Marine Barracks contact station is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, June 2 to September 2.

American Camp: Dawn to 11 p.m. Visitor Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, June 2 to September 2. The visitor center is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, during the winter season.

Pets must be kept on a leash within park boundaries. Bags

are provided to clean up after them. Please respect the leash law—it not only protects fragile plants and wildlife, but other visitors and their pets as well.

English and American camps are important archaeological areas dating back 8,000 years to the time of the Coast Salish Indians and Canadian First Nations peoples. Artifacts are on display at the American Camp visitor center. Because artifacts are protected under federal law, collecting, digging or

using metal detectors is strictly prohibited.

Please do not disturb natural features and ruins. You may collect fruits, nuts, unoccupied seashells and mushrooms.

Off-road travel (by four-wheeled vehicles or mopeds) is not allowed in the park.

Use or possession of fireworks is prohibited year-round. Horseback riding is allowed by permit only.

It is unlawful to hunt, trap or discharge firearms within the park boundaries.

2014 Summer Program Guide: something for everyone

Weekly Programs

Weekly programs scheduled below also are available on request. For information, call 360-378-2240, ext. 2233, or go to www.nps.gov/sajh. Also follow us on Facebook.

Pig War Story Guided Walk — Park rangers and volunteers describe events leading up to and including the Pig War and the peaceful joint occupation of San Juan Island by English and American troops. *Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, June 7 to August 30, American Camp.*

Captain Delacombe's English Camp Guided Walk — Join NPS Volunteer Paul Kitchen for this guided walk and learn how the Royal Marines lived during the 12-year joint occupation. *Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., June 7 to August 30, meets in the English Camp parking area.*

Wildlife in the San Juan Islands — Puzzled by an animal or bird? Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center staff are here to answer your questions. *1 to 3 p.m., Thursdays, June 5 to August 28, English Camp barracks.*

Living History: Life during the Joint Military Occupation on San Juan Island — Park rangers and volunteers recreate military and civilian life during the island's early pioneer period. Activities include blacksmithing, coopering, weaving, needlework and exhibitions of military equipment and skills. *Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m., June 7 to August 30, English Camp parade ground.*

Field Work with Rangers: Prairie Restoration — Join Park Rangers in gathering native plant seeds, cultivating them in tubes or planting the seedlings. *Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, June 14, July 12, August 16, meets at American Camp visitor center.*

Birding in the Park — American Camp attracts a variety of birds throughout the summer. Join park staff in enjoying this wonderful island resource. *Fridays, 8 to 10*



A hiker enjoys the view of the northern end of San Juan Island and the Haro Strait from the summit of Young Hill. The trail leads uphill through forests and across rocky balds from its starting point in the English Camp parking area. A weekly walk is scheduled on this trail, as well as the Frazer Homestead, Salmon Bank and the Jakle's Lagoon/Mt. Finlayson trails.

a.m., June 6 to August 29, meets at American Camp visitor center; or by appointment. Call 360-378-2240, ext. 2228 for details.

A Walk to the Salmon Bank — Accompany a park ranger or volunteer on this cross-prairie journey to the historic Salmon Bank at South Beach, where springs attracted Indians and Europeans alike. This activity can be strenuous. *Thursdays, 2 to 3:30 p.m., June 5 to August 28, American Camp parking area, or by request. Call 360-378-2240, ext. 2233.*

Contra Dancing at English Camp — Folk singer Michael Cohen and local folk musicians present an evening of traditional folk tunes and dancing for those wishing a turn on the floor. *Mondays, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., June 9 to August 18, English Camp barracks.*

Young Hill/Royal Marine Cemetery Guided Hike — Serious hikers will enjoy this two-hour journey, led by Park Historian Mike Vouri up the south slope of 650-foot Young Hill. The hike can also divert to 410-foot Mitchell Hill. See the Royal Marine Cemetery and the Garry oak wood-

land. *Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., June 8 to August 31, meets at the north end of the English Camp parking area.*

Frazer Homestead Walk — Many American Camp soldiers turned to farming on the island. Learn how agricultural operations changed the character of island landscapes, at American Camp on this guided hike with park historian Mike Vouri. *Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m., June 11 to August 27, meets at the American Camp visitor center.*

(continued on page 6)

Trails and Features

Young Hill trail—Hike this fairly steep trail up 650 feet to the top of Young Hill for a panoramic view of the island group's northwest corner, Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Novice walkers should take care to pace themselves as most of the gain is in the last half mile. An exhibit panel identifying geographic features is mounted on an overlook about two-thirds of the way up the hill. Another panel is on the summit. **(1.25 mi. from parking area to summit.)**

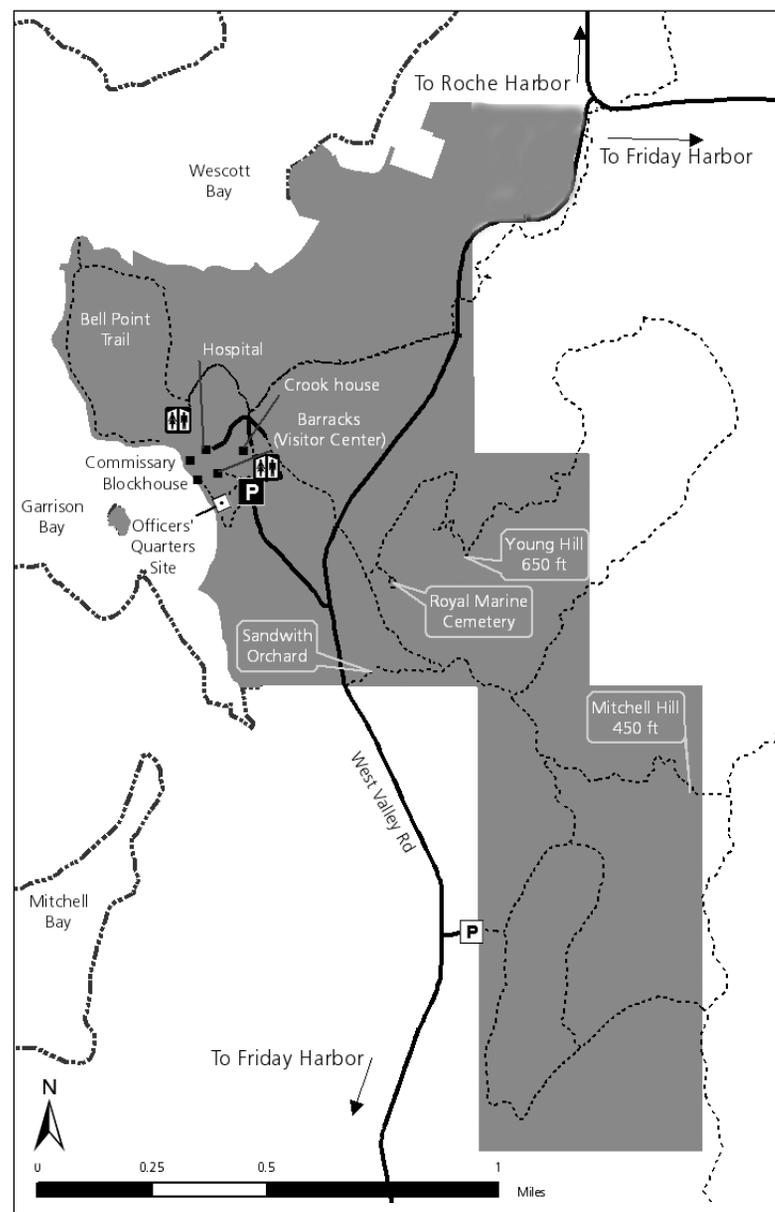
Royal Marine Cemetery—The Royal Marine cemetery is about 50 yards off the Young Hill trail, about a third of the way up. Five Royal Marines are interred, and a memorial stone is in place for two other marines. A stone also commemorates a civilian who was accidentally shot by his brother while hunting.

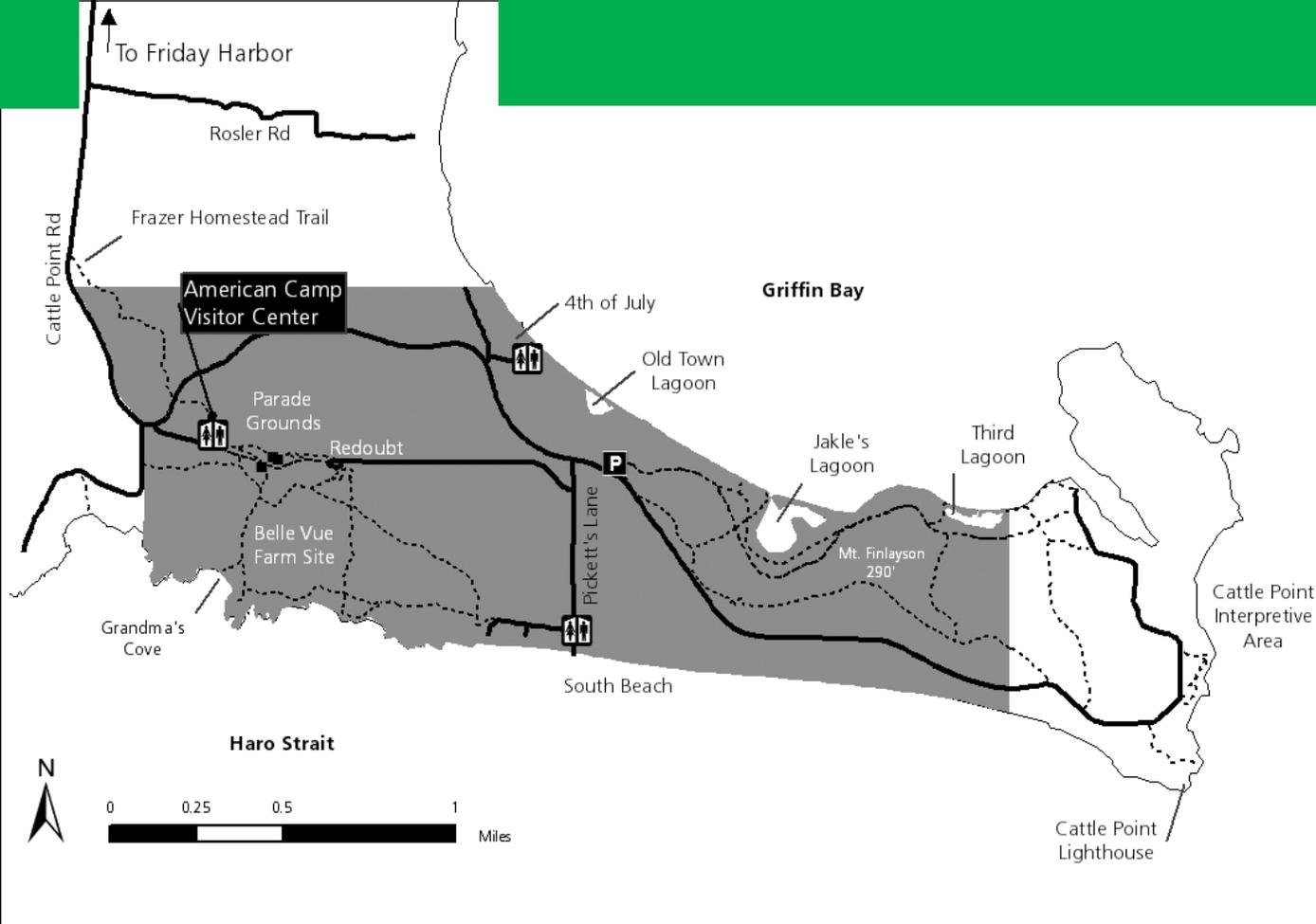
Bell Point trail—Walk the mile-long, fairly level trail to Bell Point for a view of Westcott Bay. If you like to harvest shellfish, check with the park ranger at the visitor center for information on licensing, locations, daily limits and red tide warnings. **(2-mi. loop.)**

Self-guided walk—Relive the Royal Marine-era by following the exhibit waysides scattered about the parade ground and Officers Hill. Each sign explains an existing building (or a spot where one once stood) or some aspect of daily life during the joint military occupation of San Juan Island. **(.25-mi. loop.)**

English formal garden—This reconstructed flower and herb garden—originally known as the “strawberry garden”—lies between the officers' quarters site and the parade ground. The camp's second commanding officer had the original built for his family to remind them of home.

Westcott Bay trail—Follow in the footsteps of the Royal Marines to the park's newly acquired lands on Westcott Bay. Ask a park ranger for directions to the trail connection completed in 2013 in partnership with the San Juan Island Trails Committee and San Juan County Land Bank.





Self-guided history walk—Relive the Pig War along the trail that starts and finishes in the visitor center parking area. Exhibit waysides along the trail tell the boundary dispute story. **(1.25-mi. loop.)**

Frazer Homestead trail—Trace the route of the old Military Road from the visitor center north to Rosler Road on this joint project of the park, San Juan County Land Bank and the San Juan Trails Committee. Highlights include two small prairies and a pine forest. **(2.9-mi. round trip)**

Prairie walks—Primitive tracks crisscross the prairie and trace the bluff from Grandma's Cove to South Beach and back to the visitor center via the Redoubt. A great place for viewing orca whales, the redoubt also offers a regional perspective with views of Mt. Baker, the Olympic and Cascade ranges, Vancouver Island, and on an exceptionally clear day, even Mt. Rainier, 130 miles up Admiralty Inlet. **(2.5-mi. loop.)**

Grandma's Cove—Stroll downhill to

one of the finest beaches on the island and a favorite of San Juan islanders. Use caution when descending the bluff. **(.9-mi. round trip.)**

Jakle's Lagoon trail—Pick up a self-guided walk booklet, hike along the old roadbed and enjoy the quiet of a Douglas fir, cedar and hemlock canopy. **(1.5-mi. to the lagoon.)**

Mt. Finlayson trail—Hike along the grassy ridge to the top of Mt. Finlayson where you can see Mt. Baker to the east, Mt. Rainier to the southeast, the

Olympic Mountains to the south and Vancouver Island, British Columbia to the west. Be on the alert for horseback riders and ensure your dogs are on leash for the safety of all. **(3-mi. loop.)**

South Beach trail—Follow the track of U.S. Army water wagons from the South Beach springs and enjoy the prairies in this trek starting just below the Redoubt. Raptors dip and soar on the hunt for small mammals and deer feed among tall grasses. **(2-mi. round trip from visitor center)**

2014 Summer Program Guide: something for everyone

(Continued from page 3)

Special Programs

All programs are free and open to the public, except where noted. Programs are subject to change without prior notice. For updates on additional programs and accessibility information, call San Juan Island National Historical Park at (360) 378-2240, ext. 2233; or visit our web site at www.nps.gov/sajh or find us on Facebook.

August 1914: The Year Diplomacy Failed — On the morning of June 28, 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand, of Austria-Hungary was assassinated, triggering World War I. Learn how diplomacy failed that summer in this presentation by park historian Mike Vouri. 7 p.m., Saturday, June 21, San Juan Island Library.

Life and Times of General George Pickett — Mike Vouri and Michael Cohen join with the San Juan Community Theatre in presenting two evenings of drama and song as George Pickett comes back to life to talk about his days on the frontier and Civil War battlefields. Friday July 11 and Thursday, August 21. All shows 7:30 p.m., San Juan Community Theatre. Tickets \$15, \$8 Student and \$5 Student Rush. Call the theater at 360-378-3210 or visit their website at <http://sjctheatre.org>.

Landscape Painting Workshops — Join San Juan Island artist Nancy Spaulding to learn how she utilizes photography and sketching on site to create many of her landscapes of American Camp features and vistas. The July program will cover photography and sketching subjects on site; in August participants will bring their projects from the first session. 2 p.m., Saturdays, July 12 and August 16, meets at the American Camp visitor center.

Pig War to Prairies: Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve — Ebey's Landing interpreter Lynn Hyde offers a history of Whidbey Island's connections to San Juan Island history and natural history. She also will discuss efforts to preserve the Granville O. Haller house in Coupeville. Haller



was one of the U.S. Army officers directly involved in the Pig War crisis. 7 p.m., Friday, July 18, San Juan Island Library.

Northwest Pioneer Folkways Demonstrations — Author and educator Janet Oakley will set up at Encampment for demonstrations of pioneer folkways from butter churning to Dutch oven baking and other tasks. Noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 26, English Camp parade ground.

Encampment 2014 — Park staff, volunteers and re-enactors from throughout the Pacific Northwest

and Canada recreate life on San Juan Island at mid-19th century. The Candlelight Ball is scheduled 8 to 10 p.m. on Saturday. Karen Haas will present "I Am Always on the Women's Side - Civil War Vignettes" at 7 p.m., Friday, July 25 in the English Camp barracks. All day, Saturday and Sunday, July 26-27, English Camp parade ground.

Storytelling with Karen Haas— Join storyteller Karen Haas for an entertaining evening of pioneer lore. Highlight of the evening will be her rendition of Thea Foss, on whom the "Tugboat Annie" stories

are loosely based. 8:15 p.m., Thursday, July 31, San Juan Island Library.

A Weaving Weekend — Weavers from throughout San Juan Island and Washington State will gather for the weekend to demonstrate how European and American Indian and First Nations techniques melded to create woven objects and clothing unique to the Pacific Northwest. All day, Saturday and Sunday, August 2-3, English Camp parade ground.

The Victorian Internet: The Coming of Telegraphy on San Juan Island — Learn when the telegraph arrived here and how it affected communications on San Juan Island during the joint occupation in this presentation by Park Ranger Doug Halsey. 7 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, San Juan Island Library.

Mapping the San Juan Islands — Join Boyd Pratt, Doug McCutcheon and Mike Vouri in this evening of viewing 1890s images of the San Juan islands by the U.S. Coast Survey's John Gilbert, contrasted with photographs taken from the same perspective today. 7 p.m., Saturday, August 30, San Juan Island Library.

Park, Madrona, other sponsors host Climate Change symposium

San Juan County residents and visitors will have an opportunity to learn more about the impacts of climate change through a dynamic speaker series scheduled June through September in venues in Friday Harbor, as well as on Orcas and Lopez Islands.

The Climate Action Imperative: Understanding Impacts & Making Choices will feature eight experts on the topic—from oceanographers to botanists, biologists to meteorologists. The series will provide a current look at climate change and what actions are warranted by individuals as well as by our state and nation, according to Ron Zee of the Madrona Institute, a co-sponsor of the series.

Lee Taylor, superintendent of San Juan Island National Historical Park, another co-sponsor, emphasized the dramatic ecosystem changes National Parks are experiencing.

“The impacts of climate change on national parks are immediate and real—rising sea level, ocean acidification, and increased wildfire to name just a few,” Taylor said. “We need to increase our resilience to these changes here in the Islands and beyond.”

All talks are free and scheduled for 7 p.m. at different venues (see list below). Please call 360-378-2240, ext. 2227 or 2228 for information. A concluding session on September 10 will feature State Senator Kevin Ranker, a leading legislative advocate for climate action, along with special guests.

The Imperative

Climate change has moved to the forefront of international, national, and state concern. In November 2013, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report stating that climate change will pose sharp risks to the world’s food supply in coming decades, potentially undermining crop production and driving up prices at a time when demand for food is expected to soar.

This brought a strong pledge of action from President Barack Obama in his January State of the Union address. In the last eight years, the United States has reduced its share of total carbon pollution more than any other nation. The President noted, however, the effects of climate change will cause harm to western communities from drought and coastal communities from floods.

Meanwhile in Washington State, the Climate Legislative Executive Workgroup in Olympia made their final



recommendations to the Washington State Legislature, recognizing the dire urgency of our climate dilemma and calling for action.

In March 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the most comprehensive assessment yet of the effects of climate change on our planet. The report summary provides overwhelming evidence of the scale of these impacts.

In late April 2014, Governor Jay Inslee issued an executive order outlining a series of actions to cut carbon emissions in the state and advance development and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency. A taskforce has been formed to design and implement an emissions reduction program.

The third National Climate Assessment, released by the White House last week, warns that the effects of climate change will become increasingly disruptive in the coming years. The President said regarding the Assessment, “We’ve got to have the public understand this is an issue that is going to impact our kids and our grandkids, unless we do something about it.”

Understanding Impacts, Making Choices

The series co-sponsors reflect the multiple fronts addressing climate change in the San Juan Islands: San Juan Island National Historical Park, Madrona Institute, San Juan Islands

Conservation District, The League of Women Voters of the San Juans, San Juan Island Library, San Juan Nature Institute, San Juan County Marine Resources Committee, Northwest Straits Foundation, Stewardship Network of the San Juan Islands, Washington State University Extension Service, San Juan Island Grange #966 and the Agricultural Resources Committee of the San Juan Islands.

After each talk, discussion will be encouraged to think global and act local - identifying choices relevant to our community. Plans are also in the works to have related take-home materials

See accompanying box for remaining speakers, dates and venues:

JULY 10 IMPACTS ON FOOD Chad Kruger

Director, Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources, Washington State University.
7 p.m. Friday Harbor Brickworks.

JULY 24 IMPACT ADAPTATION Lara Whitely Binder

Outreach Specialist, Climate Impacts Group and Center for Science in the Earth System, University of Washington.
7 p.m. San Juan Island Grange.

JULY 31 IMPACTS ON WEATHER Dr. Nicholas Bond

Research Meteorologist, University of Washington, Joint Institute for the Study of Atmosphere and Ocean. 7 p.m. Friday Harbor Brickworks.

AUGUST 7 IMPACTS ON GLACIERS Rebecca Lofgren

Biologist and Member, Glacier Monitoring Team, Mount Rainier National Park, National Park Service. 7 p.m. San Juan Island Library.

AUGUST 20 IMPACTS ON COASTS Dr. Steven Fradkin

Coastal Ecologist and Marine Resources Manager, Olympic National Park, National Park Service.
7 p.m. San Juan Island Library.

AUGUST 28 IMPACTS ON THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST Dr. Philip Mote

Atmospheric Scientist, Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences; Oregon State Climatologist.
7 p.m. Friday Harbor Brickworks.

For additional information about speakers and additional venues visit our website at nps.gov/sajh or the madrona Institute at www.madrona.org; or call 360-378-2240, ext. 2227.

Park continues island marble protection with low-voltage deer fencing

The National Park Service (NPS) has continued its program of installing six-foot electric fence encircling core habitats on the American Camp prairie to protect the rare island marble butterfly host plants from deer browse (or nibbling deer).

The reappearance of the island marble butterfly on San Juan Island after nearly 100 years continues to intrigue researchers and enthusiasts throughout the country. It is hoped that this experimental process will offer the butterfly a more optimal chance at survival.

In 1998, the island marble (*Euchloe ausonides insulanus*), thought to be extinct since 1908, was discovered during a prairie butterfly survey at American Camp. The only known specimens had previously been found on Vancouver Island and Gabriola Island in British Columbia.

Scientists believed American Camp, and other locations on San Juan and Lopez islands, had the only viable populations in the world. However in recent years the butterfly has disappeared in the other locales. All that remain are those at American Camp.

The battery-operated fencing gives off only a mild shock to dissuade animals, according to Jerald Weaver, park



chief of Integrated Resources. “However, for safety’s sake, visitors should avoid touching the fence,” Weaver said. “As the name suggests, electric fencing carries electric current.” All areas of electric fence are boldly signed, he stressed. “Deer browse (herbivory) is one of the leading causes of egg and larva mortality. By placing the electric fence in butterfly habitat, we hope to reduce this threat and ensure the continued

existence of island marbles on the American Camp prairie,” Weaver said.

“We have fenced approximately five acres of prairie at several locations.”

The electric fence is placed in eight locations:

Two each in the vicinity of the redoubt, along the South Beach trail, above Grandma’s Cove, and in the dunes area east of Pickett’s lane.

In 2009, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) sponsored a survey in partnership with the NPS to learn more about the natural history of the butterfly, including how far it flies, how long it lives, and whether gender ratios vary in different areas.

For information email Weaver at jerald_weaver@nps.gov, or call him at 360-378-2240, ext. 2224.

A park ranger (above left) examines an island marble butterfly larva.

A park ranger (above left) examines an island marble butterfly larva.

A park ranger (above left) examines an island marble butterfly larva.

A park ranger (above left) examines an island marble butterfly larva.

A park ranger (above left) examines an island marble butterfly larva.

South Beach: park provides a sense of place...and recreation



South Beach, once known as the Salmon Banks Beach, was private property until acquisition by the National Park Service in 1966. In this c. 1890-1900 view, Frank Bryant’s house sits near today’s Pickett’s Lane while his buck and rail fence crosses today’s picnic area. Bryant was the son of an American Camp soldier.

For thousands of years, South Beach has been a magnet for human food gathering, habitation and recreation. The first peoples came to fish the shallows of the Salmon Bank that run a quarter mile or more off shore.

They also gathered camas and other edible plants from the prairie above the beach and drew water from the three springs along the base of the plateau from Pickett’s Lane west.

When Europeans arrived they took note of Indian fishing techniques, the fertile prairie and the fresh water source and by the mid-1890s established fishing camps, first for the 12 fish traps located off shore and then for the purse seining crews that migrated annually up Puget Sound and down the Georgia Strait.

Since 1966, the National Park Service has managed South Beach as

a haven for recreation and scientific inquiry. The two uses have not been incompatible over the years. There’s no better place for archaeologists to excavate and analyze one of the most significant sites in the region.

But recreation has costs, which can have a heavy impact on the park’s budget. Most of these costs stem from unscheduled clean-up and repairs park staff must make to clear broken glass, scattered trash, defaced picnic tables, unchecked driftwood

fires, not to mention coping with red foxes who expect to be fed after receiving table scraps from picnickers or treats from passing motorists.

But the most serious challenge for staff is dismantling driftwood structures. Because of prevailing winds and currents, the beach has always been a collection point for driftwood of all shapes and sizes from storm runoff to industrial logging operations.

Some picnickers and beachwalkers

take pleasure in building forts with the logs, then leave them behind for the staff to address in the interest of visitor safety.

Maintaining a pristine setting on South Beach is time consuming—distracting staff from other duties— and, in the case of driftwood forts, sometimes dangerous.

“We’re asking your cooperation in not building driftwood forts,” said Lee Taylor, park superintendent. “They proliferate so much that they are an eyesore. We’d like the beach in the national park to be wild and natural, without man-made structures.”

It is all a part of **Leaving No Trace** beyond what is left to us by natural and human history, Taylor said.

In photo (middle), Mt. Finlayson looms over a wide-open South Beach. The photo was taken in late winter.

